

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /007 R

DRAFTED BY EA/TIMBS:STAFF:CCH
APPROVED BY EA/TIMBS:REFRITTS
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
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R 200340Z APR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

S E C R E T STATE 101250

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XC

SUBJECT:WEEKLY STATUS REPORT -- THAILAND, INDONESIA,
MALAYSIA, BURMA AND SINGAPORE AFFAIRS

INDONESIA

NON-ALIGNED IMAGE TO BE REFURBISHED (SECRET)

THE OVERTONES OF AMB MASTERS' APRIL 12 DISCUSSION WITH
NEW FOREIGN MINISTER MOCHTAR ARE SOMEWHAT DISQUIETING.
MOCHTAR SAID THAT ONE OF HIS MAJOR OBJECTIVES WILL BE
TO BRING INDONESIA'S FOREIGN POLICY INTO A "MORE BALANCED
POSITION" IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE GOI'S CREDIBILITY WITHIN
THE THIRD WORLD. HE WANTED US TO KNOW THAT, SHOULD HE
MAKE "CERTAIN STATEMENTS" IN THE FUTURE, THEY WOULD NOT
REFLECT ANTI-AMERICAN OR ANTI-WESTERN ATTITUDES OR POLI-
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CIES AND SHOULD NOT TO BE TAKEN PERSONALLY NOR AS AN
INDICATION THAT INDONESIA WISHED TO WEAKEN ITS RELATION-
SHIP WITH THE US. AMB MASTERS SIGNALLED IN RESPONSE
THAT, WHILE WE ARE BROADMINDED, OUR TOLERANCE FOR SUCH
SHENANIGANS HAS ITS LIMITS. IT THUS APPEARS THAT OUR
RELATIONS WITH INDONESIA COULD BE SUBJECTED TO AN EXTRA
STRAIN AS MOCHTAR SEEKS TO MAKE AN INTERNATIONAL NAME FOR

HIMSELF. IF SO, MOCHTAR'S HISTORICS COULD STIR UP

RESENTMENT IN CONGRESS AND PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TOOLS FOR CRITICS OF INDONESIA. ONE OF OUR CURRENT ASSETS HAS BEEN INDONESIA'S MODERATE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN THE THIRD WORLD.

MALAYSIA

MCNAMARA VISIT TO MALAYSIA (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY THE IBRD THAT ROBERT MCNAMARA HAS TENTATIVELY AGREED TO VISIT MALAYSIA FOR SEVERAL DAYS COMMENCING JUNE 9. DURING THE VISIT, HE WILL ACCEPT A TUN RAZAK FOUNDATION AWARD. WHEN PLANS ARE FIRM, THE IBRD WILL INFORM US THAT THE GOM CAN BE ADVISED.

SINGAPORE

COOMARASWAMY-NEWSOM MEETING (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

SINGAPORE AMBASSADOR COOMARASWAMY AT HIS REQUEST WILL CALL ON UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM ON MAY 3.

THAILAND

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US FIRMS SHOWING RENEWED INTEREST IN THAILAND

WITHIN PAST WEEK, THREE MAJOR US FIRMS CONSULTED COMMERCE REGARDING INVESTMENT POSSIBILITIES IN THAILAND. ELI LILLY'S SUBSIDIARY, ELANCO, IS INTERESTED IN MANUFACTURING HERBICIDES, PESTICIDES AND FEED SUPPLEMENTS. BENDIX WANTS TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICE TO SELL RADAR AND ALLIED CHEMICAL IS INTERESTED IN BUILDING AN ALUM PLANT FOR USE IN PAPER MANUFACTURE AND WATER TREATMENT. GREEN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY ALSO INTENDS TO RECRUIT THAI LABOR FOR CONTRACTS IN THE PERSIAN GULF STATES.

COMMENT: THE VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT MAY SPARK EVEN GREATER BUSINESS INTEREST IN THAILAND AND ELSEWHERE IN SEASIA.

BURMA

BURMA ARMY LAUNCHES MOHEIN IV (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

EMBASSY RANGOON REPORTED LAST WEEK THAT THE BURMESE LAUNCHED ANTI-NARCOTICS OPERATION MOHEIN IV ON APRIL 10.

WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY FURTHER DETAILS, BUT THE
BANGKOK POST HAS REPORTED THAT THE OPERATION IS DIRECTED
AGAINST HEROIN REFINERIES IN THE DOI LANG AREA OF BURMA

ACROSS THE BORDER FROM THE MAI AI DISTRICT OF CHIANG MAI
PROVINCE. CONG WOLFF HAS CRITICIZED WHAT HE BELIEVED
WERE PROCRASTINATING DELAYS ON THIS ACTION. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE101250
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: STAFF:CCH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780169-1135
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780434/aaaabcpq.tel
Line Count: 123
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 6d5879aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY, LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY, LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2900863
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT -- THAILAND, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, BURMA AND SINGAPORE AFFAIRS INDONESIA
TAGS: PINR, XC
To: EA POSTS SUVA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6d5879aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014